

FLYING SAUCER DIGEST

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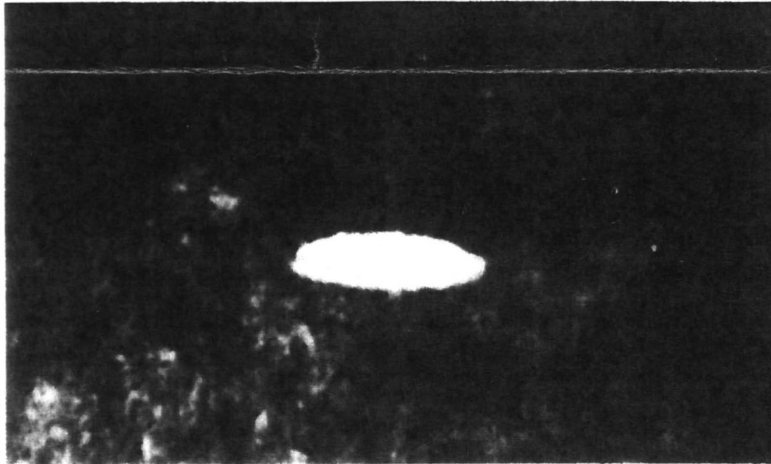
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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This issue of FSD is an abbreviated one as our computer system went down and we are only able to word process very slowly and with great difficulty. We promise to have things back to normal by the fall issue.

THE 1967 MOLINE, IL FILM



Bill Fisher still vividly remembers the strange, bright, silvery object that appeared to be hovering over the Mississippi River on the afternoon of March 9, 1967.

Mr. Fisher, then a Moline police officer, had just parked his three-wheel patrol motorcycle on 16th Avenue across from Sacred Heart School, where his son William Jr. was a student. Others saw the object, too, including neighbors, several students and a couple of nuns. Mr. Fisher retrieved an 8mm movie camera from his police trike and got some footage. It had moved away by then, and what's caught on film is a little indistinct.

But these two minutes of footage helped make Mr. Fisher a star witness in a U.S. Air Force investigation of several UFO sightings reported from Moline to Galesburg over a few days in March 1967. Two investigating USAF captains arrived the very next day.

"The Air Force asked, 'How high up was it?' Mr. Fisher recalled recently. "I don't know." "Well how big do you think it was?" "I think it was as big as a box car."

"So that gave them a little perspective. From where I was standing, looking that way (north), I thought it had been over the Arsenal. Of course, I was naturally suspicious - somebody spying on our government."

In an unusual episode in a very well respected 30-year career as one of Moline's finest, Mr. Fisher also soon found himself sought out by a variety of UFOlogists, from prominent Northwestern University astronomer J. Allen Hynek to a mysterious trio dressed in black who confronted him at the police station. He and his film were written up in UFO magazines and supermarket tabloids. Mr. Fisher also was interviewed for a 1972 book co-edited by astronomer Carl Sagan called *UFOs: A Scientific Debate*.

Last Tuesday Mr. Fisher celebrated his 80th birthday with a surprise party at the East End Bolders Club in Moline, including a bagpipe serenade for the former grand marshal of the St. Patrick Society Grand Parade.

Mr. Fisher wasn't the only law enforcement officer who saw an unidentified flying object over a period of a few days in March 1967. In separate incidents, sheriff's deputies from Knox and Henry counties also reported seeing strange and vivid objects in the sky, a couple of days before the sighting at Sacred Heart. Repeated sightings had local news media buzzing, and stories were distributed over wire services far and wide.

As *The Daily Dispatch* asked in its main front-page headline on March 10, "Is Something Up There?"

Air Force investigators concluded that yes, something was up there. In a 95-page report now available online, the two captains said that "all witnesses appeared to be reliable. They did see an object." Very likely an object made on Earth. By 1967, the Air Force was used to this.

From 1947 through 1969, the Air Force investigated thousands of reported UFO sightings, in an effort that from 1951 was called Project Blue Book. The project eventually was discontinued with the conclusion that reported UFOs posed no security threats to the United States. It was also determined that there was no evidence that any of the objects sighted were extraterrestrial vehicles.

While in the Quad-Cities, USAF Capts. Edward Orenic and Anton Kato conducted many interviews; consulted with air traffic controllers, private pilots and military units; calculated weather conditions for the times and places objects were observed; and drew a lot of circles and arrows on several maps.

Unlike the great majority of the Project Blue Book reports, investigators came to no firm conclusion about the local phenomena.

They said the sightings in rural areas were "most likely" attributable to a couple of large balloons with lights constructed out of plastic laundry bags found near Monmouth.

But they were "unable to positively identify the object" spotted by Mr. Fisher and others from the area around Sacred Heart, the Air Force report's conclusion states. Most likely an "air vehicle" of some kind.

Mr. Fisher and his son have never come to any conclusion either.

William Fisher Jr. was 11 at the time of the Sacred Heart sighting filmed by his dad. He and a friend were at the end of a line of students being shepherded across a lot to Culemans Hall.

"He and I were lagging behind and fooling around," William Fisher Jr., a consultant for educational assessment metrics in Sausalito, Calif., said recently. "He pointed up in the sky and said 'Hey, look at that plane, it's just hanging there.' I looked up, and there's a big oblong shape just hanging there. There were no wings.

"It was oblong and really shining and hanging. It was silvery white, just reflecting sunlight. As soon as I looked up and saw it, my jaw dropped, wondering what this was."

Like his father, William Jr. to this day does not know what the object was.

"I've always said it was nothing but an unidentified flying object," William Jr. said, "the key word is unidentified. I've never made any conclusion about what we saw. We saw something bright and shiny in the sky we couldn't explain. That's all it was. It could be a lot of different things. What we don't know is way more than what we do know."

It was no coincidence that Officer Fisher had a movie camera in a storage container on his motorcycle. He had put it there after hearing of the previous local UFO sightings.

"They were being viewed by a lot of people," Mr. Fisher said. "There were stories all around. I was just naturally curious. I had my camera in there just in case."

This was noted by the Air Force. The investigators appeared to make a point of noting witnesses who might have a taste for science fiction or who were aware of the many sightings going on. People who might want to see something, even if subconsciously.

Mr. Fisher, the reports says, "seemed to be a very conscientious and dedicated officer. He is active in church activities, particularly scouting." But it also noted that he liked science fiction, and that "he made the statement that he 'watches the sky every chance he gets.'"

Mr. Fisher said the investigators seemed to be fishing for such statements with leading questions. He remains adamant that he saw what he saw. He doesn't know what it was, but it most certainly wasn't a balloon, he said. And several other people saw it and were startled by it, too.

"It's still pretty vivid in my mind," he said.

Mr. Fisher's statement to Capt. Kato in 1967 runs to two single-spaced pages and is quite detailed. At first he thought it was a government helicopter, but there was no rotor. As he started filming it, the object moved away to the northwest, and was "elongated," with a metallic and shiny surface. Source: *Quad Cities Online*, March 15, 2015.

"MASSIVE" CIGAR SPOTTED IN TEXAS

A Texas witness at San Antonio reported watching a "massive" cigar-shaped UFO crossing the sky that moved into a dark cloud and disappeared about 2:40 p.m. on June 1, 2015, according to testimony from the MUFON witness reporting database.

The witness was in the Stone Oak area and driving along Hardy Oak Boulevard when the object was first seen.

The Gate to Strange Phenomena is your entrance into the world of the paranormal. Each issue contains intriguing factual articles and an assortment of scientific and occult related news clippings from around the world. A sample copy can be obtained by mailing \$2.00 to P. O. Box 43516, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143.

"I looked up for no reason and there was a large ship traveling east to west across the sky," the witness stated. "We've been under floods for a month here in Texas. It's been a disaster and we hadn't had a semi-clear day in a month. There were large billowy clouds but mostly clear in some parts."

"This wasn't a plane or a drone. This was a UFO undeniably in the day. I never thought it was a plane. This wasn't some night blurb. I could see it clearly. I was surprised no one else could. I have a good camera on my phone but was too impressed, too unsure still at first, too in awe."

The witness pulled over to the side of the road for a better look.

"It was gliding, silver. Not a disk, like a sleek, sleek Zeppelin shape, not the width, just the length shape, very long, very, very bright in the Texas sun. I saw it glide across but it made movements from up to down in some parts like it was unsteady, but it wasn't it was just able to do it without distress."

"I watched it and it went into a black cloud and never came out the other side of it. It went into a dark cloud and never came out. It made me nervous." Source: Roger Marsh, "Open Minds" June 9, 2015.

BOOK REVIEW: *UFO Repeaters!* by Timothy Green Beckley and Sean Casteel, ISBN 9781606111918, 296 pages, published by Inner Light/ Global Communications, P.O. Box 753 New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

UFO photographs and videos are always fascinating, and this large book has more than one hundred taken over a span of more than sixty years. But rather than present photographic evidence of UFO reality by dozens and dozens of individual photographs, the authors concentrate on a small number of "repeaters," people who somehow are in tune with these elusive objects in our skies and have been able to take multiple images over a number of months and years. Many of these same photographers have claimed contact with the beings associated with these ships, and no matter what you may think of their claims, their individual stories make for fascinating reading.

The list of "repeaters" includes such well known names as: Paul Villa, Tom Dongo, Marc Brinkerhoff, Joseph Ferriere, Howard Menger and Ed Walters. Many of the photos were taken in UFO "hot spots" such as Pine Bush, New York; Gulf Breeze, Florida and Sedona, Arizona.

This fascinating book is available to FSD subscribers for \$18.00 plus \$5.00 for shipping. Send your orders to *UFO Repeaters* at P. O. Box 753, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

OUR 1999 WEIRDOLOGY BOOKLET NOW IN STOCK AND READY TO SHIP

Back in 1999 we collected our favorite articles and features from our "first" *Weirdology* newsletter that was published from the late 1980s through the mid-1990s, and came out with *Rick Hilberg's Book of Weirdology*. This publication not only had forteen cases, but included items on ghosts, mystery creatures such as Bigfoot and Thunderbirds, but also covered some of the more "far out" aspects of UFO research. It was so well received at the time that we once again revived the *Weirdology* newsletter and would publish it for more than ten years.

Over the years since it went out of print we've had people wanting to acquire copies for their collections, so we decided to reprint it and add additional material in order to bring it up to date. We believe that this expanded second edition is one that you too will want to add to your UFO and forteen library.

Order this new and expanded edition of *Rick Hilberg's Book of Weirdology* now for \$10.00 and receive three free issues of FSD added to your subscription. Please make checks payable to Rick Hilberg and send your order to: R. Hilberg 377 Race St. Berea, OH 44017.

FLYING CIGAR OVER FLORIDA GOLF COURSE

A Florida witness at West Palm Beach reported watching a silent, low flying, cigar-shaped UFO that hovered in place before just disappearing, according to testimony from the MUFON witness reporting database.

The witness was outside walking her dog at Okeeheelee Park about 11:49 a. m. on May 29, 2015, when the object was first noticed.

"It was a very quiet morning," the witness stated. "The sky was so beautiful because of all the different kinds of clouds and the weather was warm and breezy out of the east. I happened to look up towards the sky at 11:49 a. m. and saw this huge object over Okeeheelee Golf Course that is just to the east of where I was walking in the park.

"I was thinking this is a huge strange kite? Blimp? I have seen many different types of planes, helicopters, blimps, drones, kites, etc. to know it was not anything like that. PBI and some heliports are not far from Okeeheelee Park, so you see aircraft every day.

"The object was cigar-like in shape, but it had like a dome/bump on the top half of it. Also, it looked like a row of windows on the side. What was really interesting is that it did not move or make any type of sound. I was about 500 feet away; and for its size you would think you would hear sounds like aircraft make.

"I mentioned before about all the beautiful different types of clouds. Well it was like this object was reflecting off of clouds to make it almost camouflage-like if that makes any sense. The object was not in a cloud but many

clouds were around it. So some shine to it, but also the dull gray of certain cloud colors."

The witness is familiar with having to study shapes. "I have experience using X-ray equipment at airport security so I'm very familiar with picking out shapes and objects."

"I continued walking east towards the object with my dog and did not take my eyes off of it until we got to the point in the path where we turn left/north to head towards the parking lot and - poof - it disappeared."

"Also at this time my dog became very wary, upset, with his tail clamped down, curled up under him, and he starts pulling hard to the north. He wanted out of there bad! My dog does not behave like that normally. He loves the park. Something was upsetting him. There were no other people/dogs around or golfers on that part of the course. Ironically on the 28 of May I brought my camera to the park to take photos of the Poinciana trees in bloom...ugh. But I tried my best to capture the UFO in a sketch I did when I got home." Source: Roger Marsh, "Open Minds" June 5, 2015.

ALIENS NOT RULED OUT IN RADIO BURSTS FROM SPACE - By Alejandro Rojas

Scientists analyzing radio bursts from space have discovered a strange pattern that suggests the signals may be of an artificial nature. Some scientists have been open to the idea that the radio signals are a possible extraterrestrial beacon, and this new data does not rule out that possibility.

In a paper posted on the Cornell University Library website, Michael Hippke of the Institute for Data Analysis in Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany, and John Learned at the University of Hawaii in Manoa discovered that the dispersion measures of the signals are multiples of the number: 187.5.

What does that mean? Well, from what I understand, scientists use the dispersion measure to help them figure out how far a signal came from. Higher frequencies travel faster than lower ones, so by measuring the difference in time the frequencies of the signal are received - the dispersion measure - they can get an idea of the distance traveled.

In this case, the dispersion measures seem to indicate an artificial origin. Hippke and Learned write: "We estimate the likelihood of a coincidence as 5:10,000."

"If the pattern is real," Learned told *New Scientist*, "it is very, very hard to explain."

The signals in question are called fast radio bursts (FRBs), and have been recorded since 2001. Only one, in 2014, was detected real-time as it happened. The others were discovered by sifting through recorded data from telescopes. There have now been 11 FRBs recorded in total.

In a recent *Huffington Post* blog by Seth Shostak, senior astronomer for the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute, he explains that it was sifting through data from telescopes that lead to the discovery of the FRBs in 2007. Shostak says that Duncan Lorimer discovered the brief "flashes" of radio energy using a telescope in Australia.

According to former director of the SETI Institute Jill Tarter, "beacon from extraterrestrials" has always been considered one of the weird possibilities for the origins of the FRBs.

Tarter told *New Scientist*, "These have been intriguing as an engineered signal, or evidence of extraterrestrial technology, since [they] first [were] discovered."

In an FAQ on the signals posted on *New Scientist*, they point out that there are many possible natural origins of radio signals from space. However, they also note that the possible natural sources "don't account for the fast radio bursts' pattern according to any physics we know now."

In the conclusion to their paper, Learned and Hippke write that if the natural sources are ruled out, "an artificial source (human or non-human) must be considered." Source: "Open Minds" April 8, 2015.

WINDS CAUSED RAIN OF WORMS IN NORWAY?

Out of all of the various reports of fish, frogs and other creatures observed falling from the sky, Norway's rain of worms may be among the hardest to believe. The country's media were peppered with reports of earthworms apparently falling from the sky as the landscape near Bergen began to melt in mid-April. Biology teacher Karstein Erstad came across an untold number of the invertebrates, lying on top of snow up to 3 feet deep. He believes it would have been impossible for them to have crawled through the thick snow-pack. "It was earthworms wherever I went. There must have been thousands," said Erstad. Experts believe the worms could have been swept up by strong winds after they emerged from the ground and carried to the snow-covered area. Since Erstad's discovery, tales of "worm rain" have come in from other areas near Bergen and as far away as the Swedish border. Source: Steve Newman, "Earthweek" April 25, 2015.

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Please note that we will resume our regular coverage of the fortan scene in our fall issue.